GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:18
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2003
IMPORT OF POTASH
ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agriculture Ministry tests the size and the quality of the potash imported by India Potash Limited (IPL) from Russia, Jordan, Germany, Canada, Israel etc. each year under the Fertilizer Control Order (FCO);

(b) if so, the details of the size and the quality of the potash imported from various countries during the last three years, country-wise;

(c) whether the Government have fixed any norms with regard to the size and quality of the imported potash;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the potash imported from Russia last year has been released in the market for use by the farmers despite the size being 30% to 40% less than fixed norm; and

(f) if so, the details and reasons thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.18 DUE FOR REPLY ON 21ST JULY, 2003.

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Indian Potash Ltd. (IPL) had imported total 41 vessels of Muriate of Potash (MOP) during 2000-01; 42 vessels each during 2001-02 and 2002-03. All the MOP imported in these vessels were standard as per Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985 (FCO) specifications. The average particle size of MOP imported from different countries was in the range of 79.77% to 94.34% against prescribed 65% minimum between 1.70 mm and 0.25 mm. The country-wise details of MOP imported during last three years is given in the Annexure.

(c)&(d): The Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 prescribes the following standards for the MOP:-

Parameters	MOP	MOP (Granular)
(i) Moisture per cent by weight, maximum	0.5	0.5
(ii) Water soluble potash content (as K2O), per cent by weight, minimum	60.00	60.00
(iii) Sodium as NaCl, per cent by weight, maximum	3.5	3.5
(iv) Particle size	Minimum 65% between 1.70% & 0.25 mm IS sieve	Minimum 90% between 3.35 mm & 1.0 mm IS sieve and maximum 5% below 1 mm sieve
(v) Magnesium (as MgCl2), per cent by weight, maximum	-	1.0

(e)&(f): All the MOP imported during 2002-03 was of prescribed standard as per FCO specifications.

ANNEXURE

Details of MOP Vessels and Quantity imported by IPL during 2000-01 to 2002-03

Sl.No.	Name of Exporting Country	2000-01 Qty in mt#	2000-01 No.of vessels Impor- ted/ Inspe- cted	2000-01 No.of vessels non Std. cted	2001-02 Qty in mt#	2001-02 No.of vessels Impor- ted/ Inspe- cted	2001-02 No.of vessels non Std. cted	2002-03 Qty in mt#	2002-03 No.of vessels Impor- ted/ Inspe- cted	2002-03 No.of vessels non Std. cted
1	CIS	0.66	17	Nil	0.82	16	Nil	0.78	18	Nil
2	Jordan	0.34	13	Nil	0.34	13	Nil	0.28	10	Nil
3	Israel	0.31	8	Nil	0.30	11	Nil	0.25	10	Nil
4	Germany	0.10	3	Nil	0.07	2	Nil	0.09	4	Nil
5	Canada	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Total	1.41	41	Nil	1.53	42	Nil	1.40	42	Nil

mt# = million tonnes